

Message

From: Murphy, Patrick M [Patrick.M.Murphy@wv.gov]
Sent: 9/15/2018 12:55:05 AM
To: rogers, rick [rogers.rick@epa.gov]
CC: Crumlish, Karen [Crumlish.Karen@epa.gov]; Bennett, James [bennett.james@epa.gov]; Reinhart, Roger [Reinhart.Roger@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: MANCHIN, CAPITO AND MOONEY SECURE FUNDING IN SPENDING BILL TO REIMBURSE MARTINSBURG FOR CLEAN-UP OF WATER SUPPLY

That's good news. Appreciate the info.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2018, at 7:08 PM, rogers, rick <rogers.rick@epa.gov> wrote:

Pat,

Good news for Martinsburg.

Rick

Rick Rogers
U.S. EPA Region 3
Via mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ferrell, Mark" <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>
Date: September 14, 2018 at 5:19:58 PM EDT
To: "damm, thomas" <Damm.Thomas@epa.gov>, "rogers, rick" <rogers.rick@epa.gov>
Cc: "MacKnight, Evelyn" <MacKnight.Evelyn@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: MANCHIN, CAPITO AND MOONEY SECURE FUNDING IN SPENDING BILL TO REIMBURSE MARTINSBURG FOR CLEAN-UP OF WATER SUPPLY

For Immediate Release:

September 14, 2018

Contact:

Jonathan Kott (Manchin), 202-228-1810

Tyler Hernandez (Capito), 202-224-6472

Ted Dacey (Mooney), 202-225-2711

MANCHIN, CAPITO AND MOONEY SECURE FUNDING IN SPENDING BILL TO REIMBURSE MARTINSBURG FOR CLEAN-UP OF WATER SUPPLY

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Representative Alex Mooney (WV-2) secured funding to remedy the contamination of drinking water in Martinsburg, WV which was caused by the use of perfluorooctanic acid (PFOA) in aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) used by the Air National Guard to suppress fires. The funding is included in the compromise spending bill between the House and the Senate, securing its passage.

“In 2016, when Martinsburg and other West Virginia communities were faced with the daunting news that their drinking water sources had been contaminated with unacceptable levels of PFOA, I started working with federal agencies and Martinsburg officials to find a solution to this problem. This action is long overdue, but I am excited that Martinsburg will finally be reimbursed for the cleanup costs and infrastructure upgrades following the detection of unacceptable levels of PFOA in the water supply,” **Senator Manchin said.**

“The reopening of the Big Springs Water Plant was so critical to residents, businesses, and the entire Martinsburg community; and it’s important that we ease the financial burden the city incurred as it worked to do so,” **Senator Capito said.** “As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I’ve worked hard alongside my West Virginia delegation colleagues—as well as with federal, local, and military leaders—to find a solution to the Big Springs situation, and I’m thrilled we were finally able to deliver a fix through this government funding agreement.”

“Glad to work with my colleagues in Congress to secure this funding reimbursement for the City of Martinsburg to ensure clean

drinking water and to aid in the effort to clean up pollution,” **Rep. Mooney said.**

Last week, Senator Manchin, Senator Capito and Rep. Mooney sent a letter to the House and Senate Conference Committee, urging them to keep the funding in the final spending package. **To read the letter [click here.](#)**

Background:

After concerns were raised that Martinsburg’s water system was contaminated by unacceptable levels of a chemical used in foams by the West Virginia Air National Guard to fight fires, the city chose to shut down the Big Springs Water Plant to prevent the consumption of contaminated drinking water.

Below is a full timeline on efforts on this issue:

May 2016 - Following the announcement by EPA that they would lower the lifetime health advisory for PFOA in spring of 2016, Senator Manchin worked to help facilitate support for the city of Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna – all three municipalities had legacy PFOA contamination.

September 5, 2017 – Senator Capito meets with Richard Hartley, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and Environment, to discuss the need to clean up the Big Springs Water Plant.

September 13, 2017 – Senator Capito co-sponsors a bipartisan amendment to the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that would have increased funds for the Air Force Environmental Restoration. This amendment was not adopted.

October 10, 2017 – Senator Capito has a follow-up call with Acting Assistant Secretary Hartley regarding Big Springs.

October 2017- Senator Manchin and Senator Capito hold a joint call with Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air for Installations, Environment, and Energy, Richard Hartley.

November 8, 2017 – Senator Manchin and Senator Capito hold a joint call with Lucian Niemeyer, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment.

January 9, 2018 – Senator Manchin speaks with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Robert Hood, about Martinsburg.

January 2018 – Senator Manchin sends a letter to the President outlining infrastructure priorities, including Martinsburg.

March 21, 2018 – Senator Manchin sends a letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

May 2018 – Senator Manchin calls on the EPA to issue a maximum contaminant limit (MCL) on PFAS as opposed to merely a lifetime health advisory.

May 2018 – Senator Manchin writes to OMB Director Mick Mulvaney asking for the immediate release the results of a study regarding the full effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on human health.

May 16, 2018 – Senator Capito questions EPA Administrator Pruitt at a Senator Appropriations Interior Subcommittee hearing regarding the release of a study on the health effects of PFAS.

June 8, 2018 – Senators Capito and Manchin sign a bipartisan letter with 10 other senators to EPA Administrator Pruitt and HHS

Secretary Alex Azar calling for the results of the PFAS study to be released immediately.

June 2018 – The Senate passes its version of the National Defense Authorization Act which included language supported by Senators Manchin and Capito to allow the DOD to pay for clean-up costs related to the contamination of Martinsburg water supply. This language was stripped in Conference negotiations with the House of Representatives.

August 1, 2018 – Senator Capito urges EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler to place a high priority on addressing PFAS-related issues during questioning before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

August 2018- Senators Manchin and Capito cosponsor an amendment to the Senate Defense Appropriations bill that set aside \$45 million for PFAS cleanup

September 2018- By working in a bipartisan way, Senators Manchin and Capito help secure compromise language in Conference that covers PFAS cleanup for Martinsburg.

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